

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Minutes for June 10, 2013

Present: Kenny Foscue, Richard LoPresti, David Cooper, Caroline Dumont, Tyler Smith, Alex Powers, James Fredericks, Nick Gill, Letty McPhedran and guest Amy McLean Salls

Kenny Foscue chaired the meeting. Minutes were accepted.

HES AND HES-IE campaign:

Amy McLean Salls, 860-478-9125 (amcleansalls@yahoo.com) a consultant for UI, discussed with us a possible campaign for signing up North Haven homeowners and businesses for home energy audits under the HES (Home Energy Solutions) program run by UI. The program is now \$99 for oil customers, \$79 for homes that heat with gas, and free for income eligible customers under the HES-IE program. HES provides 40 light bulbs, blower door test, aerators for faucets. They help to air seal the house, including door sweeps to contain heat or cooled air.

North Haven has 140 points and needs only 60 more points for another Bright Ideas grant. Every HES audit provides points. David mentioned Home Performance with Energy Star, which is the next step of making improvements to the home for which there are rebates.

How might North Haven proceed? We need a schedule of events to develop a campaign. These might include a letter from the First Selectman to households (Richard will talk this over with Mr. Freda, Kenny will again send us the sample letter from Madison, and UI would mail it) This letter could also be printed in the newspapers. UI will print fliers for us directed to North Haveners. Amy gives presentations, and Richard offered to also, to Rotary, to Senior Center (before lunch), to Chamber of Commerce. Amy wants us to target the people who are most receptive. The "Energizing Hamden" campaign was described. Case studies from each of us, such as Sarah wrote will be needed, as well as the use of Cable TV (perhaps on Rep. Yaccarino's show, or separately, and a presentation at a Selectman's meeting with some comments from Mr. Freda. It was decided that a presentation in the NHHS cafeteria would never reach parents, nor a flier home from NHHS. But if Project Green could assist us, we could have a table at the gate to two football games this Fall, after a heavy campaign in the papers and TV. Our student reps felt half-time would bring people to our table, after an announcement from the loudspeaker. For our campaign we should have the piecharts we received

from UI when UI compared us to our neighbors. Letty will print out the football schedule for the July meeting. Tyler will find out Thursday when they meet whether Project Green will help us with the games and possibly canvassing homes on weekends.

Questions remain that Amy will research and respond to. Will homeowners save enough money from the audit to both pay for the audit and a clean energy sign-up? Can we promote both at once? She felt we should have a clear, calendared plan by the July meeting and let her know what we need from UI then. This effort, which was approved after Amy left, at least for residential UI customers, will need steady steps all winter.

Letty reported on the Referendum saying 6 sign-ups were obtained in two hours. We should remember this is a good venue for sign-ups for the clean energy option.

Report on the Legislative session:

Virtual net metering is now available for municipalities in a way that makes Mr. Freda's plan for a solar field feasible. C-PACE money was limited. We will discuss more at another meeting. David will send us his summary of the energy issues addressed this session and we have the comments from Clean Water Action forwarded by Kenny. The hydropower from Canada was approved to fill a gap in local sources.

Report on loss of energy in transmission over long distances:

Caroline and Richard reported that the higher the voltage, the less loss. If you lower the resistance, there is less loss. Richard reported there is now 4-7% loss.

Benchmarking update:

Caroline reminded us we had all seen Sheri's email saying Adam Sipperly had been assigned to North Haven benchmarking and as soon as he has had a "meet and greet", he will begin. Both Caroline and Letty will be the contacts while Sarah is gone in the summer.

After school program at Gateway's sustainability program:

David wants to work with high school youth after school so they enter college with sufficient knowledge in this field. He will talk to Christine Carling, the Dept of Education Director of Finance about funding. This is needed for instructors, supplies, time and busing. Richard will speak to Sheri about this also. It is too late now for the Task Force to have a tour of the facility.

Report on SARA recycling:

Letty reported a conversation with Jim Lamb, business development manager for SARA. Four large red recycling bins have been installed at the town green, memorial field, the recycling center, and Montowese Field. It was suggested that the one more on order be placed at Vanacore field, our NHHS football field, even useful off season for runners/walkers using the track.

Richard volunteered to suggest this to Jim and to Mr. Freda. Also around thirty SARA corrugated recycle cartons are at interior locations in North Haven such as Planet Fitness. Seven of these smaller cartons will be placed next to garbage cans for Tuesday evening summer concerts and collected Wednesday mornings by the 11-12 North Haven employees.

The Citizen published again our announcement wanting more TF members.

Submitted by Letty McPhedran